

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL DISCUSSION
AT JANUARY 24, 2014 MEETING**

Dear Superintendent Bernthal,

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) would like to reinforce its strong support for the sanctuary's oceanographic mooring program. We encourage the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and its West Coast Regional Office to support this critical program with available financial resources and other means.

For more than a decade, OCNMS' oceanographic mooring program has demonstrated cost-effective and efficient operations, generated valuable data from a generally data poor environment, and supported for other regional programs, such as harmful algal bloom monitoring.

Data from the sanctuary's instrumented moorings support critical management needs identified in the OCNMS management plan and recognized by resource managers and scientists throughout the Pacific Northwest. Specifically, a 2012 report from the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification identified serious issues faced in Washington State, including waters of the sanctuary, and recommended actions in response to increasing ocean acidification. Their recommendations included expanded and sustained ocean acidification monitoring and development of predictive forecasting for the risk of corrosive water events. OCNMS has been collaborating with researchers from NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory to support development of an algorithm useful for monitoring corrosive waters using conventional water quality parameters available from the sanctuary's moorings. Data from these moorings have also been instrumental in identifying the timing, severity and spatial extent of low-oxygen events. Both corrosive waters and hypoxic events have caused economic impacts on shellfish growers and marine fisheries off the Washington coast. With the expectation that these events and impacts will continue and increase in severity in the near future, the value of data from the sanctuary's moorings to resource managers and scientists will increase.

We understand that the OCNMS Superintendent has identified the oceanographic mooring program as one of the sanctuary's highest research priorities, and we encourage you to recognize and support this critical effort.